THE Keepers of the Liberty of *England* by Authority of Parliament, To all Parſons, Miniſters, Lecturers, Vicars, and Curates, and alſo to all our Juſtices of the Peace, Majors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Conſtables, Churchwardens, Collectors for the Poor, and Headboroughs, and to all other Officers, Miniſters and People whatſoever, as well within Liberties as without, to whom theſe preſents ſhall come, greeting.

WHereas the Major, Bailiffs, and Burgeſſes of the Borough of *Barwick* upon *Twede*, on behalf of ſeveral of their Neighbors, have humbly preſented unto the Parliament their humble Supplication and Petition, thereby certifying and ſetting forth, That a ſad and lamentable Fire brake out in the ſaid Borough, upon the Eight day of *June* laſt paſt, which was ſo ſuddenly diſperſed by the Windes (which blew extraordinarily violent) that it deſtroyed Five and thirty Houſes with Houſholdſtuff and Goods amounting to the value of neare Three thouſand pounds, as it hath been eſtimated by perſons appointed to value the ſame. And therefore the ſaid Major, Bailiffs, and Burgeſſes, did by their ſaid Petition humbly pray the Parliament to Authorize them by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, to gather and receive the charitable contributions of well diſpoſed perſons towards the relief and ſuccor of the Sufferers by the ſaid Fire. Which Petition the Parliament having taken into their ſerious conſideration, and well weighing the ſame, have thereupon Ordered, That a Brief be granted under the Great Seal of *England*, for a Collection of well diſpoſed People in the ſeveral Counties and Cities hereafter mentioned, for relief of the perſons who have ſuffered the ſaid great loſſes by the ſaid Fire.

KNow ye therefore, That we have given and granted, and by theſe preſents do give and grant unto the ſaid Major, Bailiffs, and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough of *Barwick* upon *Twede*, their Deputy and Deputies, the Bearer and Bearers hereof, full Power, Licence, and Authority, to aſk, gather, receive, and take the Alms and charitable Benevolence of all good and well diſpoſed people, whatſoever inhabiting within the Counties of *Cumberland*, *Northumberland*, *Weſtmorland*, *Durham* and *York*, and in the City of *York*, and County of the ſame City, the Cities of *Durham* and *Carliſle*, the ſaid Town and Borough of *Barwick* upon *Twede*; the Town and County of *Newcaſtle* upon *Tine*, and the Town and County of *Kingſton* upon *Hull*, and in all Cities, Towns corporate, priviledged places, Pariſhes, Villages, Hamblets, and in all other places whatſoever, within the ſaid Counties of *Cumberland*, *Northumberland*, *Weſtmorland*, *Durham*, and *York*, and not elſewhere, for and towards the recovery of the ſaid Loſſes of the ſaid perſons ſufferers by the ſaid Fire. Which being a buſineſs of ſo Chriſtian and of ſo great concernment to the ſaid Perſons ſufferers by the ſaid Fire, will doubtleſs find ready acceptance with all ſuch as have any thing of Bowels and Compaſſions in them, who will thereby be eaſily provoked to ſuch a chearful and liberal Contribution as ſhall be anſwerable to ſo great a loſs

WHerefore we will and command you and every of you, that at ſuch time and times as the Deputie and Deputies, (the Bearer and Bearers hereof) of the ſaid Major Bayliffs, and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough of *Barwick* upon *Twede*, by them thereunto Deputed by Deputation under the ſeal of the ſaid Borough, ſhall come and repaire to any of your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aſk and receive the Gratuities and charitable Benevolence of the ſaid good and charitable Chriſtians, quietly to permit and ſuffer them ſo to do without any manner of your Lets or Contradictions, and you the ſaid Parſons, Miniſters, Lecturers, Vicars and Curats, for the better ſtirring up of charitable Devotions, deliberately to publiſh and declare the Tenor of theſe our Letters Patents, or the true Copy or Brief hereof unto the people upon the Lords Day next after the ſame ſhall be tendered unto you by the ſaid Deputy or Deputies, exhorting, perſwading and ſtirring them up to extend their liberal Contributions towards ſo good and charitable a work, and you the ſaid Churchwardens of every Pariſh, and Collectors for the Poor, where ſuch Collection is to be made as aforeſaid, together with ſuch honeſt active men there, as ſhall be nominated by the Miniſter and your ſelves, are hereby willed and required to collect and gather the Alms and charitable Benevolence of the ſaid charitable and well diſpoſed people not only Houſholders but alſo Servants, Strangers and others. And for the more effectual advancement of this pious work; you are to go from houſe to houſe in your reſpective Pariſhes upon the Week days to gather the Alms of the ſaid good people, and what ſhall be by you ſo gathered in the ſaid Pariſhes and Places, to be by the Miniſters and your ſelves endorſed on the back ſide of theſe our Letters Patents, or the true Copy or Brief hereof in words at length and not in Figures, which endorſement is to be ſubſcribed with the hands of you the ſaid Miniſters, Churchwardens, and ſuch in each Pariſh or place as ſhall aſſiſt you in ſuch collection, and alſo to be regiſtred in the Books of your reſpective Pariſhes, and the ſum and ſums of mony ſo gathered and endorſed, you are to deliver to the ſaid Deputy or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof, upon his or their demand, and to no other perſon or perſons whatſoever, whoſe receiving thereof with his or their Acquittance or Acquittances, ſhall be your ſufficient diſcharge for ſo doing

AND we do by theſe preſents give and grant unto the ſaid Major, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough of *Barwick* upon *Twede*, their Deputy and Deputies, the Bearer and Bearers hereof, full power, licence and authoritie to ſend or deliver true Copies or Briefs of theſe our Letters Patents unto all Congregations that are not diſtinguiſhed by Pariſhes in any of the ſaid Counties, Cities, Towns Corporate, Pariſhes, Villages, Towns, Hamblets, or Priviledged places firſt ſhewing unto their Officer or Officers, or ſome of them, theſe our Letters Patents under our ſaid Great Seal: Which ſaid Officer or Officers, or ſome or one of them, upon ſerious conſideration of this pious work, are hereby deſired to exhort and ſtir up their reſpective Congregations to this charitable and pious work, and to receive their Benevolence, endorſing the Sum or Sums ſo given on the backſide of ſuch true Copies or Briefs of theſe our Letters Patents as ſhall be delivered unto them as aforeſaid, in words at length, and not in figures, two or three of them ſubſcribing the ſame Endorſment, and paying the Sum or Sums ſo gathered, and delivering the ſaid Copies and Briefs ſo as aforeſaid endorſed and ſubſcribed, to the Bearer or Bearers of theſe our Letters Patents ſo as aforeſaid deputed upon his or their demand, and to no other perſon or perſons whatſoever, Whoſe receiving thereof with his or their Acquittance or Acquittances ſhall be their ſufficient diſcharge for ſo doing. Which ſaid Bearer or Bearers of theſe our Letters Patents are hereby willed and required forthwith to pay and deliver all the Monies by them ſo to be received as aforeſaid by vertue of theſe preſents, together with theſe preſents and the ſaid Copies and Briefs endorſed as aforeſaid, unto our welbeloved *Lionel Daviſon*, *Henry Howitſon*, and *William Rogers* Gentlemen, whom we do by theſe preſents name, conſtitute and appoint the Treaſurers of all ſuch Sum and Sums of Money as ſhall be collected and received by vertue of theſe our Letters Patents, unto whom or any two of them the ſame is and are to be delivered and paid at or in the now dwelling houſe of the ſaid Major of the Borough of *Barwick* aforeſaid for the uſe and behoof of the ſaid ſufferers by the Fire aforeſaid.

AND laſtly for the prevention of the pawning or ſelling of theſe our Letters Patents, to the end to defraud or defeat the ſaid ſufferers of the benefit hereof, and for the more aſſurance of faithful and equal dealing in the receipt, account and diſtribution of the Monies hereby to be collected, Our will and pleaſure is, that no man ſhall be imployed to collect any of the ſaid Monies by vertue of theſe our Letters Patents ſo to be collected as aforeſaid, but ſuch only as ſhall be appointed thereunto by deputation under the hands and ſeals of the ſaid Treaſurers or any two of them, And that the Monies collected and raiſed by vertue hereof ſhall be by the ſaid Treaſurers or two of them diſpoſed of to the ſaid pious uſe hereby intended, and according to the true intent and meaning of theſe preſents. And therefore we do hereby will and require the ſaid Treaſurers or two of them to pay the ſaid Monies ſo to be collected as aforeſaid unto the ſaid perſons ſufferers by the ſaid lamentable Fire proportionably according to the juſt loſſes of each of them; Any Statute, Law, Ordinance or Proviſion heretofore made to the contrary hereof in any wiſe notwithſtanding. In Witneſs whereof We have cauſed theſe our Letters to be made Patents for the ſpace of One whole Year next after the date hereof to endure, and no longer. Witneſs Our ſelves at *Weſtminſter* the Nine and twentieth day of *July*, in the year of our Lord One thouſand ſix hundred fifty and nine.

By Authority of Parliament.

CARVILE.

461

463